

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7-9, and 13-14 are amended and claims 6 and 10 are canceled. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2, 4-6, 7-9, and 12-14 is respectfully requested.

The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) objects to claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, and 12-14 because of informalities. Applicants amend claims 1 and 9, and cancel claims 6 and 10 to obviate the objections thereto. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims is respectfully requested.

The PTO further rejects claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, asserting that the claims are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed based upon the amendments to the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims is respectfully requested.

The PTO further rejects claims 1-2, 5-10, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,940,429 to Lam et al. ("Lam"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,319,735 to Preuss et al. ("Preuss"). The PTO further rejects claim 4 over the combination of Lam and Preuss in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,674,876 to Hannigan et al. ("Hannigan"). Based upon the amendments to the claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite wherein the copyright information insertion means generates a watermarked audio signal "by combining the original audio signal, the echo signal of the original audio signal, and copyright information." Furthermore, claim 1 is amended to recite the sign generator recited in claim 6, now canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that the applied art fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least these features of claim 1.

For example, Lam, at column 7, lines 51-67, only discloses an A/D converter 84 and a PN sequence generator 92 that supplies the PN carrier PN(n), which can take on values of either +1 or -1. Nowhere does Lam suggest the sign generator recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Preuss and Hannigan similarly fail to disclose the sign generator, as recited in claim 1.

Independent claims 8, 9, and 14 similarly recite a sign generator or include assigning a sign to the output of the linear prediction analysis filter and are therefore likewise allowable over the applied art. Claim 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, and 13 depend variously from these independent claims and are likewise patentable over the applied art for at least their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2, 4-6, 7-9, and 12-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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